GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2606
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Adulteration of Gold and Silver Ornaments
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge loss is caused to the consumers due to adulteration of gold, silver and other jewellery ornaments;
(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the Government proposes to make hallmarking mandatory for gold and silver ornaments;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the likely impact of the said plan on prices and sale of ornaments in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b) : Madam, Gold and silver jewellery being sold to consumer, in the country are both hallmarked and without hallmark. Regarding Hallmarked jewellery, no large scale adulteration in the country has been reported. However in case of jewellery sold without hallmark, BIS had conducted two market surveys in the past. Details of the surveys are given below:

Particulars	Results of Survey of 2001	Results of Survey of 2006
Sample size of survey	120 samples in 8 cities	162 samples in 16 cities
Samples failing	89%	90%
Average shortage in purity	11%	13.5%
Highest purity shortage	38.6%	44.6%

(c) to (e): At present no proposal for making Hallmarking mandatory for Gold and Silver jewellery as per the enabling provisions of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 is under consideration of the Government.
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